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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 APRIL 1987

Egypt

Mubarak Election Address — Any call for undermining stability is a call for destruction and backwardness, President Husni Mubarak declared in an election address to the nation reported by MENA 5 April. Stability is the factor for Egypt's present and future success, he said, and it protects the country from the "isolated calls and adventurism of those who are blinded by false illusions and thoughtless political ambitions." Those who raise slogans hostile to stability are presenting "dreams" to the masses and are revealing their ambitions to lead the country into "dark labyrinths, sick fantasies, and illusions which only exist in the minds of their creators." As for the fairness of the upcoming election, Mubarak said it will be a vote of "glory and dignity" by "honorable" people, and he expressed confidence that no one will buy or sell votes.

Arrests — An Interior Ministry spokesman announced that police arrested 30 Muslim fundamentalists 5 April on charges of violating election laws, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A spokesman for the Ministry also confirmed that a number of Socialist Labor Party members were arrested, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. Earlier, security police had arrested a 10-man "communist ring" 2 April on charges of printing "inflammatory" leaflets inciting citizens to elect candidates of the Egyptian Communist Party, *Akhbar al-Yawm* disclosed in a report cited by MENA. All ten are members of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, which they used as a "facade," and one of them is a journalist on the leftist newspaper *Al-Ahali*, the report added. All but one of these detainees were subsequently released, according to Cairo press reports cited by AFP. Meanwhile, *Akhbar al-Yawm* warned that "saboteurs" are planning to use violence to disrupt the elections, MENA noted.

Military Debts — High interest rates have made Egypt's military debts to the United States "exhausting and completely unbearable," President Mubarak stated in a Kuwaiti press interview reported by MENA 4 April. However, Egypt hopes to emerge from its present financial difficulties with the help of some Arab states who have given Egypt "a reasonable amount" of aid, he said. The debt problem was also highlighted by Paris radio's disclosure that the French company Dassault-Breguet has decided to suspend the delivery of Mirage-2000 aircraft to Egypt until the latter pays debts due on the order. Citing *Jane's Defense Weekly*, the radio noted that Egypt has received around two-thirds of the planes it ordered. Meanwhile, the Cairo weekly *Uktubar reported that an Egyptian delegation will visit the* Soviet Union in May to discuss the supply of Soviet weapons and spare parts valued at around $200 million, according to MENA.

Egyptian Prisoners in Libya — An official source cited by MENA denied JANA's claim that the three Egyptian prisoners in Libya were members of an espionage and sabotage ring, adding that such allegations can only be made by "clowns who have no experience."

Lebanon

Camps War — The Amal Movement and the PNSF held talks under Syrian supervision 5 April and agreed to observe a "comprehensive and serious cease-fire" starting the following morning, Amal announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Amal also promised to lift the supply siege on the camps at the same time that Palestinians withdraw from positions east of Sidon and implement previous agreements on their camps in Beirut. The radio welcomed this "new and positive development," noting Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an's statement that the agreement represents the beginning of the end of the camps' predicament.

The cease-fire announcement followed the arrival of six supply trucks in Burj al-Barajinah 5 April, according to Palestinian sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. The supplies were donated by Kuwait and the trucks were allowed into the camp under Syrian supervision. Five people were killed and seven others wounded in attempts to supply the camps on 3 April, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, which noted that a supply truck was attacked by an RPG-7 while attempting to enter Shatila. The inhabitants of Shatila appealed to Arab and world leaders to take action to halt the camps war out of compassion for the starving refugees, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

In a related development, Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis assigned the Saudi and Algerian foreign ministers to go to Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders on ways to ensure the smooth flow of food and medical supplies to the refugee camps in Lebanon, the Syrian foreign minister disclosed in a statement cited by KUNA 5 April. The minister said he had given a clear statement to the meeting on Syrian efforts to facilitate the dispatch of supplies into the camps. Concern about the camps situation was expressed by several ministers during the opening session of the foreign ministers' meeting the previous day, KUNA noted, and the Syrian delegation walked out when PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat gave an address on the issue.

Hostages — Radio Free Lebanon cited a 5 April British press report that Hizballah has indicated it is holding Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and is ready to release him for a ransom. The report added that Hizballah has been in financial difficulties following the suspension of Iranian assistance. In another development, the Voice of Lebanon disclosed that it was informed by an anonymous caller 3 April that U.S. hostage Alann Steen has died, though the radio noted that this has not been confirmed by any other source.

Arab Policy on Europe, Peace Conference

Arab League foreign ministers expressed "full solidarity" with Syria in its dispute with Britain and decided to "freeze" the Arab-European dialogue until the European measures against Syria are canceled, Damascus radio asserted in a 5 April report on the Arab League Council meeting in Tunis.

Despite this development at the Tunis meeting, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has* asked Jordan's King Husayn to inform European leaders of Syria's desire for a peaceful Middle East settlement through an international conference, WAM noted. *Al-Ittihad* was referring to Husayn's 3 April talks with Al-Asad in Damascus, which preceded the king's visit to Morocco the following day at the start of a European tour. The Amman paper *Al-Dustur* stressed that Husayn's talks with European leaders are aimed at enlisting further support for the idea of convening an international peace conference, adding that the king's visit to Damascus and Rabat were part of an attempt to achieve a common Arab perspective and understanding of the international conference idea. A joint communique broadcast by Amman radio at the end of Husayn's talks with the Moroccan king confirmed that the two sides had discussed efforts to convene an international conference, noting that they also agreed on the need to end the Gulf war and convene an Arab summit conference.

Al-Dustur reported that the Jordanian prime minister's upcoming talks in Washington will also focus on efforts to hold an international conference, and the *Jordan Times* said he will report back to Husayn in London on 8 April.

PLO Affairs

Delegation in Moscow — A Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Mahir al-Yamani arrived in Moscow 4 April for talks with Soviet leaders on preparations for the PNC, moves to convene an international peace conference, and the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Relations With Egypt — In the wake of recent Egyptian criticism of remarks made in Libya by PLO official Khalil al-Wazir, Sanaa Voice of Palestine said the Egyptians base their stands on media reports without ascertaining the truth, thereby making PLO-Egyptian relations "uncomfortable" and a cause for concern. An Egyptian source cited by MENA pointed out that statements by PLO officials are "haphazard and contradictory" and vary according to the capitals in which they are made, thereby creating a "fuzzy picture."

Abu Nidal Group — the Fatah Revolutionary Council announced that it hanged two "Jordanian secret agents" in Istanbul last month, AFP reported. The announcement followed earlier reports of executions of Jordanian agents by the Abu Nidal group.

Israel

Immigration — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that there is "no evidence that an exodus of Soviet Jews is about to begin," Jerusalem radio reported. Israel will, however, continue to press for unlimited exit permits and direct flights to Israel, he said. Regarding possible settlements, the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry announced that new Soviet immigrants will be settled in Jerusalem, the Galilee, and the Negev, the radio noted.

Pollard Affair — The IDF chief of staff said the Pollard affair is affecting relations between the IDF and the U.S. Army, IDF radio reported. The chief of staff noted that the resignation of Colonel Avi'em Sela' has not resolved the problem. According to Jerusalem television, Sela' has been appointed an instructor in the National Security College, but has not been promoted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 5 April, Iraq announced in a military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. According to Athens radio, a Cypriot tanker was hit by a missile en route to Khark Island. On 3 April, INA reported three Iranian boats were sunk when they attempted to approach the Iraqi port of Al-'Amiq.

Iran's Relations With the USSR

The Iranian ambassador to Moscow told *Keyhan* that the United States is seeking to create tension between Iran and the Soviet Union in order to prevent peaceful coexistence between the two countries, IRNA reported. However, he also said that many ups and downs in Tehran-Moscow relations were the result of the USSR's "inadequate knowledge" about Iran's Islamic revolution.

Kuwait

The trial of 16 Kuwaiti nationals accused of subversive acts and plotting against the country began in Kuwait 4 April, KUNA reported, noting that four of the defendants are still at large. A Tehran radio report on the trial said that Muslim protestors were forced out of the court by security forces after hearing the defendants present evidence that they had been tortured.

Chadian Conflict

Libyan forces have conducted "intensive bombings" to destroy sensitive equipment they abandoned when Ouadi Doum was captured, AFP reported. The agency's sources said the raids were "rather destructive," damaging or destroying half the aircraft left on the ground.

The French Embassy in Ndjamena denied a *Washington Post* report that French military experts helped the Chadian offensive against Libyan positions in northern Chad, AFP noted. Chadian President Hissein Habre supported France's denial during a news conference carried by Ndjamena radio, declaring that "no foreigners — neither French nor any other foreign national — participated in the fighting."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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Najibullah Addresses Kabul Party Plenum 2 Apr
LD031640 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] The 20th plenum of the Kabul Party Provincial Committee was held today in the hall of the provincial committee under the agenda: Duties of the Party and Social Organizations and State Organs in Connection With Work Among the Peasants.

Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee took part at the plenum.

According to a report by a BIA correspondent, the basic report of the plenum was read by Fazel Ahmad Toghain, secretary of Kabul Party Provincial Committee. This report stated in part: Since the proclamation of national reconciliation, 60 national reconciliation commissions have been created in Kabul Province, from which 49 commissions work to ensure National Reconciliation in the villages belonging to Kabul Province. As a result of the work by these commissions, 230 families have returned to their homes in the villages of Kabul Province; and 120 village councils and councils of people's representatives of Bagrami District have declared their regions to be peace zones.

During 1365 [ended 21 March 1987], 6,800 tons chemical fertilizer, 1,051 tonnes of improved sowing seeds and pesticide valued at 6.7 million afghanis have been distributed to Kabul Province's peasants.

Then, 17 participants spoke about the basic report and presented their proposals, views and criticism about solving the problems of the peasants in Kabul Province.

Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee assessed the work of the plenum and specified the tasks of the relevant authorities concerning work with peasants in the villages of Kabul Province and said: Your plenum is considering an issue of special importance. At present, when the national reconciliation program is being implemented in Afghanistan, the improvement of our party work in the villages among the peasants has great importance. The village should become the center of our activity. The village is an important center of reconciliation and in the final analysis, the village relates the peasants to the peace and tranquility which will be ensured in Afghanistan. The path to reconciliation is the path to the peasants.

Comrade Najib added: During the revolutionary years great changes have occured in the life of the peasants. It is necessary to mention that during this period not everything that has been done caused the peasants to feel [words indistinct] the protection of the revolutionary sovereignty. Recently, the Politburo and the DRA Government planned active measures to improve the living conditions of the peasants. The draft of a decree on land and water relations; the establishment of grants-in-aid; the allocation of 16,000 tonnes of improved wheat, 5,300 tonnes cotton seed, 30 tonnes [words indistinct] seed and 155,000 tons chemical fertilizer are the manifestation of this fact [words indistinct].

Comrade Najib added: The draft of the DRA Revolutionary Council on the basic principles of the land relations has been prepared. Some of the peasants in your province have been briefed on this draft recently. This draft has been discussed in some localities at the sessions of the worthy personalities and elders.

The BIA correspondent adds that at the end of the resolution of the plenum was read and was approved unanimously.

Several members of the Council of Ministers and the heads of state establishments of Kabul Province took part in the Kabul Party Provincial Committee Plenum.

Soviet Health Officials Meet With Keshtmand
LD041922 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau, and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, this morning met a delegation of the USSR Health Ministry at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. The delegation, headed by Oleg Prokofyevich Shchepin, USSR first deputy health minister, is on a friendly visit to the DRA.

During the meeting views were exchanged on cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union in the sphere of public health. DRA Public Health Minister Sher Bahadur, and Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul, were present at the meeting.

DRA Public Health Minister Sher Bahadur met this afternoon with the USSR Health Ministry delegation and talked about further cooperation in the sphere of public health.

According to a report by a BIA correspondent, at the end of this meeting a protocol on assistance and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DRA in the sphere of public health was signed by the DRA public health minister and by Oleg Prokofyevich Shchepin, USSR first deputy health minister, and head of the Soviet delegation. [passage omitted]

According to another report, Comrade Haydar Masud, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met this afternoon at his office with the delegation of the USSR Health Ministry. During the meeting, which was attended by DRA Public Health Minister Sher Bahadur and by Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul, talks were held on subjects of mutual interest.

Received by Najibullah
LD051952 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, received today at party central committee headquarters Oleg Prokofyevich Shchepin, USSR first deputy health minister.

During the meeting, DRA Public Health Minister Sher Bahadur and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Kabul, were also present.

Mujahidin Shoot Down Helicopter in Laghman Province

BK031527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly shot down a Soviet-Kabul helicopter in Nurestan Valley of Laghman Province last week.

The helicopter, accompanied by other helicopters, was bombing areas around Alishang town.

Military Plane Downed in Parvan

BK060616 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have shot a down a Soviet-Kabul military aircraft in Parvan Province. in the same province, the mujahidin attacked a camp and killed 50 Soviet-Kabul soldiers.

One tank was hit, and two military vehicles were also destroyed during the operation.

AFP: Mujahidin Split Over King's Possible Return

BK041644 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 4 Apr 87

[By Dimitri Kochko]

[Text] Islamabad, April 4 (AFP) — The possible return of deposed King Zahir Shah to Afghanistan was threatening Saturday to cause a split in the Afghan guerrilla alliance and provoke fighting between principal rebel factions, Mujahedeen sources said here.

Reports that Soviet and Afghan authorities had established contacts with Washington and King Zahir over a role for the monarch in an Afghan national unity government have circulated widely here during the past week.

The sources said the issue was so sensitive that mujahedeen leaders declined to present a motion condemning his return at a meeting held Saturday by around 3,000 rebels, including 250 guerrilla commanders, for fear of armed clashes.

They said numerous rebel commanders and Afghan refugees favourable to the return of King Zahir unexpectedly attended the meeting in Quetta, in southwestern Pakistan near the Afghan border.

The meeting had been called by fundamentalist Moslem guerrilla groups fiercely opposed to the King, who has been living in Rome since he was ousted in 1973.

The rebels' assembly nonetheless approved a resolution for the mujahedeen to vote for a top leader that would represent and speak for the seven parties in the mujahedeen alliance in case the parties' leaders failed to choose one. The resolution did not mention King Zahir.

In an interview last month with the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*, King Zahir denied any contacts with Kabul authorities or any offer to return to Afghanistan, adding that "the moment was not favourable for any such offer."

Echoing statements earlier this week by two key rebel parties, Hezb-e Eslami and Jamiat-e Eslami, the guerrilla's current spokesman in Pakistan, Abdurrab Rasul Sayyaf, strongly rejected the possibility of the King's return.

"The future interim government will be formed by Afghan mujahedeen belonging to mujahedeen parties only," he said. "Russians will have no role to play in the formation of this government." He stressed that "anyone who becomes a candidate under Russian sponsorship, be it Zahir Shah or anybody else, shall be regarded as a Russian stooge and agent."

But other rebel sources said the king had enough supporters, especially among the more moderate guerrilla parties, to cause concern for the alliance's frail unity.

The alliance had been strengthened by the widespread opposition to Kabul's "reconciliation" offers and to the cease-fire decreed unilaterally on January 15.

Chakma Refugee Situation Discussed in Border Talks

BK041302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] India has told Bangladesh that favorable conditions should be created in the Chittagong Hills so that a large number of Chakma refugees who have taken shelter in India can return to their home. This was stated at the Indo-Bangladesh border talks which began in Dhaka today. The Indian delegation is led by the director general of Border Security Forces, Mr M. K. Mishra, and the Bangladesh delegation by the director general of the Bangladesh Rifles, Major General Sufi Ahmed Chowdhury.

Mr Mishra told newsmen that apart from repatriation of Chakma refugees, major trans border crimes, such as smuggling and cattle lifting, were discussed at the meeting. Both sides agreed that effective steps should be taken so that the miscreants are prevented from operating on either side of the border.

Economic Talks With Pakistan Open 5 Apr

BK051423 Dhaka General Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] The second meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan joint economic commission began in Dhaka today. Minister of Commerce Mohammad Abdul Munim is heading a 20-member Bangladesh delegation to the meeting. Finance and Economic Affairs Minister of Pakistan, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, is leading a 9-member Pakistan delegation. The opening session lasted about 1½ hours.

Secretary of the external resources division M.K. Anwar told newsmen that two working groups have been formed at the meeting. They will prepare draft documents of the agreed minutes to be signed on Tuesday.

The leaders of the two delegations expressed keen desire in expanding the existing bilateral economic cooperation to the mutual benefit of the people of both the countries. The secretary of the external resources division further told newsmen the working group on trade and commerce will evaluate progress in bilateral trade achieved during the last 7 years and make suggestions to further expand it. He said the working group on industry and technical cooperation will review the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Lauding various developmental efforts being done in Bangladesh under the leadership of President Ershad, Mr Watto expressed his country's keen desire in further developing relations and friendship with Bangladesh.

New Food Distribution System Introduced Nationwide

BK051145 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Dhaka, April 5 (AFP) — A new food distribution system took effect here Sunday following opposition charges that people in many areas of Bangladesh were close to starvation due to high prices and poorly-organised food supplies. But critics charged that the new system would mean an increase in the price of government-distributed basic foods, which would in turn push up prices on the open market.

The government had recently introduced a system where the government sold rice and other grains at subsidised prices in Dhaka and other major towns.

But President Hussain Mohammad Ershad announced Saturday that as of Sunday this would be replaced with a system of distributing government stocks through the rationing system and in shops throughout the country.

The independent Bengali newspaper *The Sangbad* said Sunday that under the old system, the government sold rice at 7.75 taka (25 U.S. cents) per kilo (2.2 pounds), but that under the new system the price would be 9.35 taka (31 U.S. cents) per kilo.

This would push up prices on other markets, which are usually higher than the government stock and ration prices, the paper said.

Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia charged Saturday that the country's food situation was alarming, and that people were living "amidst starvation" in several areas of the country.

She told a press conference that coarse rice on the open market now cost 11 to 16 taka (36-53 U.S. cents) per kilo (2.2 pounds), up from seven to nine taka (23-30 U.S. cents) a month ago.

Prices of essential goods had "gone beyond the buying capacity of the common man," she added, blaming President Ershad for failing to curb price rises.

She charged that rice stocks were inadequate and said prices were likely to rise further during the coming Moslem fasting month of Ramadan.

The Sangbad said that grain stocks in government warehouses had fallen to an estimated 410,000 tons, compared with 640,000 tons at this time last year.

Begum Zia, who heads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said the BNP would hold demonstrations Thursday to protest the food situation.

Senior food officials met here Tuesday and decided to strengthen the rice distribution system. They also suggested measures to keep the prices of items such as sugar, salt and baby food stable.

Food prices generally rise slightly at this time of year ahead of the arrival of a new rice harvest later this month, but observers here are concerned over whether the government will be able to contain them within reasonable limits. They also fear that it will add further fuel to the opposition campaign against the government.

Supreme Court Judge To Probe U.S. Agency Issue

BK031406 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, announced in the Lok Sabha today that a sitting judge of the Supreme Court will be asked to go into all aspects of the Fairfax issue.

Making a statement, Mr Gandhi said that the name of the judge will be decided in consultation with the chief justice of India. This, he said, is being done to set at rest all the controversies.

The house witnessed continuous uproar as most of the opposition members expressed their dissatisfaction over the statement and wanted to make observations. The house was adjourned after an hour-long uproar.

External Affairs Minister Arrives in Czechoslovakia

For coverage of the visit to Czechoslovakia by Minister of External Affairs Narayan Dutt Tiwari, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 30 March Eastern Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Tiwari Begins Official Visit to Poland 3 April

For coverage of the visit to Poland by External Affairs Minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari, see the Poland section of the 3 April Eastern Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Water Management Protocol Signed With USSR

BK031730 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] A protocol was signed in Delhi today for long-term cooperation between the Indian Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management of the USSR. The protocol envisages transfer of technology and joint studies to be made by the two countries up to the end of the century.

The protocol was signed by the Union secretary in the Ministry of Water Resources, Mr Naresh Chandra, and the deputy minister for irrigation and water resources of the USSR, Mr V.K. Zarubin.

Defense Minister Proposes Strategic Planning Group

BK060328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, says he has proposed the setting up of a strategic planning group to give defense preparedness a complete perspective.

In an informal chat with newsmen aboard an IAF [Indian Air Force] plane while returning from Visakhapatnam, he said the group would be headed by the prime minister. Other members would be the finance minister, the home minister, and the external affairs minister besides the defense minister himself. The minister also disclosed that the Defense Ministry is preparing a prospective plan for 2000 A.D. The exercise will be completed by the end of the month, he said.

Mr Singh said that the plan is being prepared after weekly deliberations with secretaries in charge of external affairs, defense, defense production, and the three service chiefs.

Buta Singh Rejects Dialogue With Punjab 'Extremists'

BK031409 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said that the government has chalked out a program to prevent misuse of foreign donations or aid received by certain organizations for educational and developmental activities. The government is aware of the organizations which are misusing such funds and action will be taken against the defaulters. Mr Buta Singh was replying to a 3-day debate on the demands for grants of his ministry in the Lok Sabha today. He said that nobody will be allowed to play with the unity and integrity of the country in the name of religious fundamentalism.

On the Babri Masjid-Ramjanambhumi [shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] controversy, the home minister said that the issue can be solved if only some of the political parties stay away from it and refrain from giving it national dimension. Criticizing the inflamatory speeches made at the rally held in the capital a few days ago, the home minister appreciated the sentiments of young people of the community who have condemned such provocative speeches.

Referring to Punjab, the home minister said that those who are indulging in terrorist acts will be dealt with firmly. He ruled out a dialogue with extremists in Punjab as they are indulging in killing of innocent people. During his 70-minute reply, Mr Buta Singh also dealt with issues like Assam, GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] agitation, Chakma refugees problem, and tribal welfare.

Punjab Congress-I Leader Killed by Gunmen in Mohali

BK031637 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] In Punjab, a member of the Executive Committee of the state Congress-I, Mr Hardeo Sharma, was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen in Mohali in Ropar District. The state Congress-I chief, Mr Beant Singh, has condemned the killing of Mr Sharma.

In another incident, a caretaker of a religious place in Kapurthala District was shot by suspected terrorists this afternoon. The assailants escaped after the crime.

Junejo Claims No Intention To Make Nuclear Bomb

BK041656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said Pakistan neither has the capability to make an atomic bomb, nor does it have the intention to make and possess the resources for making one.

In an interview with London Weekend Television, he said Pakistan will improve its atomic technology to the extent of overcoming energy problems and fulfilling its needs.

The prime minister said as far as the enrichment of uranium is concerned Pakistan has acquired this capability but only for peaceful purposes.

When asked about the reason for everyone's talking about Pakistan's capability to make an atomic bomb and its interest in making an atomic bomb, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said if anybody has any concern about an atomic bomb in this region why does he not ask whether India has made an atomic bomb or not; or whether India has this capacity.

On the danger of any attack on Pakistan's atomic installations by India or Israel, the prime minister said Pakistan is not concerned about this.

In this connection he said in the last 6 years Pakistan has had extremely good relations with the United States. The alleged problem of an atomic bomb does not have any connection with the U.S. package aid agreement.

On the Afghanistan issue, the prime minister said the focus of attention at the indirect talks in Geneva is on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He said both sides are serious about solving this problem and it is possible that some aspect of success will be reached at the next round of Geneva talks.

In reply to a question he said the United States sincerely wants a solution to this problem and the return to their country of the 3 million Afghan citizens who have sought refuge in Pakistan.

He said through the indirect talks in Geneva, the Kabul administration has come down from 48 months to 18 months and Pakistan has increased its time frame from 3 or 4 months to 7 months. He said now there is only a difference of 11 months. The bilateral talks with the Soviet Union indicate that it will withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and now only the timeframe remains to be decided.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said as far as the question of government inAfghanistan is concerned, only the people of Afghanistan should do be concerned and they must decide on the type of administration they want.

Prime Minister Leaves for Visit to UK, Belgium

BK050845 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, left Islamabad for London this afternoon on an official visit to Britain and Belgium. He was seen off at the airport by the chairman of the Senate, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Others present to see him off included the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Punjab governor, the chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Committee, federal ministers, ministers of state, members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps, senior civil and military officials, and prominent citizens.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the prime minister said the main objective of his visit to Britain was to exchange views with Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher on bilateral matters, including economic cooperation and regional and international issues. He said Pakistan has very substantial economic relations with Britain. He said Mrs Thatcher, being an important European leader, has always supported Pakistan on different issues.

He said he would also visit the interior of England, particularly Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Birmingham, to meet Pakistanis and discuss with them their problems and their solutions.

Sends Message to Soviet Leaders

BK060246 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed the hope that relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union will continue to grow and further stabilize, thereby benefiting the peoples of the two countries.

He conveyed this in a radio message to the Soviet Council of Ministers from his plane while overflying Soviet territory on his way to London.

The prime minister also sent similar messages to the heads of government of Denmark, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Netherlands while overflying these countries.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Leader Kittu Reportedly Alive in South India

BK031140 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Reports indicate that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Jaffna commander, Kittu, who was badly injured in a grenade attack on Monday night, is safely in hospital in Southern India. Two of his bodyguards were killed in the attack and he himself lost a leg. At that time he was reported to be dead but it is understood that after having his leg amputated he was taken to a nearby LTTE clandestine hospital in the north. A Radio Australia report monitored this morning said that Kittu is now out of danger in a private hospital in Trichy.

The ambush is believed to have been carried out by a rival terrorist group and the report said that the attack has dealt a severe blow to the Tigers. Not only had they lost much ground to the army recently, but four of their senior members were killed in an accident in February, according to a radio report.

(John Reiche) reporting from Colombo states that to lose top leaders is one thing but to lose such a senior man as a result of intergroup fighting among the separatists is quite another matter. (Reiche) adds that [words indistinct] release a work of a rebel separatist group, the incident is a glittering reminder of the bitterness between the different groups fighting for separatism in Sri Lanka.

LTTE 'Witch Hunt' Reportedly Kills 140-150 Rivals

BK040519 Hong Kong AFP in English 0507 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, April 4 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist organisation has killed between 140 and 150 Tamil youths suspected of belonging to rival militant groups in the north, official sources aid Saturday. Tamil sources in Jaffna in the northern peninsula said that at least 150 Tamil youths had been killed. Official sources said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had started a "witch hunt" and were rounding up youths not identified as LTTE members. They said that as of Friday the death toll was between 140 and 150 but added that the LTTE witch hunt was continuing and the toll could rise in the next few days.

The bloodletting began late Thursday after the LTTE began rounding up suspected rivals following attacks on the LTTE's Jaffna commander and other members of the group Monday, the Jaffna sources said.

LANKA PUWATH on 'Mass Reprisal'

BK041046 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1029 GMT 4 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 04 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The massacre of Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the People Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) terrorists in a mass reprisal for the assassination attempt on LTTE deputy leader Sathasivam Krishanakumar alias Kittu, has risen to 98.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that armed terrorists of the LTTE were still hunting for EPRLF, TELO and PLOTE terrorists. Security personnel in the Jaffna Fort camp, northern Sri Lanka heard machinegun fire and grenade blasts.

Three shop owners suspected of harbouring EPRLF, TELO and PLOTE terrorists were assassinated.

Though the TELO and EPRLF have been weakened by the mass killing of their cadre, by the LTTE, suspicion still lurks among Kittu's closest followers as to how the would be assassins of Kittu knew the movements of Kittu and his bodyguards, which were constantly shrouded in secrecy.

An EPRLF suspect surrendering to the security forces in Kilinochchi stated that the LTTE believes that there are many more TELO and EPRLF cadres still in hiding.

The death toll of ELO and EPRLF members have now risen to 98. Among them are many peripheral members of these two groups. Even innocent youths are hunted down.

Jaffna has become a ghost city said the surrendered terrorist.

A mobile patrol from the Gemuni watch based in the Kurumbasey security forces camp in northern Sri Lanka, was attacked by separatist terrorists Thursday. Troops returned fire killing one terrorist and seriously wounding many others. Troops also recovered weapons belonging to the terrorists from the scene of the attack.

Meanwhile, at Point Pedro/Pannai causeway, northern Sri Lanka, terrorists fired mortars yesterday at the two camps situated there which fell short of the camps. Troops did not return fire.

Air Force Bombs Batticaloa District Town

BK051634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Kokkadicholai and surrounding areas in the Tamil dominated Batticoloa District for about 1 hour this morning.

Reports quoting the Batticaloa citizens committee say that the bombing followed the killing the seven security forces personnel in landmine explosion in Batticaloa and Amparai Districts. The details of casualties in the Sri Lankan bombing are not immediately available.

Meanwhile, the Batticaloa District trade union federation observed a token fast today demanding immediate release of those detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the last 18 months.

Government To Release Fishermen Accused of Spying

LD061004 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] London, April 6, IRNA — An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry told IRNA Monday that the Islamic Republic will turn over 16 arrested Egyptian fishermen, accused of gathering information for Iraq, to the ulema of the Islamic Society of Egypt.

The release of the accused follows appeals by several Egyptian ulema, including Shaykh 'Umar Abdul-Rahman, and Shaykh Hafiz Salama to the Islamic Republic to pardon the 16 detained Egyptian fishermen, and hand them over to the Islamic Society of Egypt.

The fishermen were captured in Iranian coastal waters of the Persian Gulf and were believed to have been gathering information for Iraq at the time.

The London-based Islamic Council of Egypt, on behalf of the Egyptian Ulema, made the request to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Similar appeals have also been made by other Egyptian ulema and Islamic groups.

The Foreign Ministry source stressed that the accused fishermen will be turned over to the ulema so that the Egyptian Government will be deprived of exploiting their release for propaganda purposes.

Majlis Speaker, Algerian Envoy Discuss Revolution

LD051841 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — Algeria views the triumph of the Islamic Revolution of Iran not only a victory for the Islamic world but for the Third World as well, said Algerian ambassador in Tehran, Cherif Derbale in a meeting with Majlis (parliament) speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Sunday. The Islamic Revolution supports the Arab world in its struggle against the Zionist entity, Derbale said.

The Algerian ambassador later extended an invitation to the speaker to visit that country.

In response, Hoj. Rafsanjani said that Iran views Algeria with special importance because of its pioneering role in the 'jihad' (Holy War) against colonialism. "We consider Algeria a country with which we can have sound relations," said the speaker.

Emphasising on the expansion of bilateral economic and cultural relations Hoj. Rafsanjani expressed hope that he would be able to visit Algeria at an opportune time.

Majlis Speaker Comments on War, Economic Resources

LD041208 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope here Saturday that during the current Iranian year the Iraqi-imposed war will reach a stage whereby resources of the country can be used for economic infrastructure and equipping the Armed Forces for future.

Speaking at a joint flag hoisting ceremony, Speaker Rafsanjani, who is Imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council, praised the Armed Forces personnel and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps for their performance in destroying the Iraqi war machine during the past Iranian year (ended March 20).

Plots against the Islamic revolution have been unabating ever since the victory of the revolution because of the serious threat it poses to world oppressors, he said. This is because as the revolution gets older the world becomes more aware of its depth and magnitude, Hojjat-ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added.

The Islamic movement is in contradiction with interests of the reactionaries, Zionism and the superpowers. The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue this move and in this respect the role of the Armed Forces in defending the nation and its movement is clear, he added. The leadership of the country, Majlis and other authorities pay special attention to the Armed Forces, Rafsanjani stated.

He described the past Iranian year as a successful one during which deadly blows were dealt on the Baghdad regime. Furthermore, the war was taken into enemy territory, he added.

The destruction of a major portion of Iraq's war machine last year was a result of the unity and coordination among the Armed Forces, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, the Basij, disciplinary forces, police, gendarmerie and committees. He expressed hope that this year the imposed-war would be taken to a point where the country's resources could be spent on economic infrastructure and rebuilding and equipping the Armed Forces, he added.

The ceremony was attended by the chief of Joint Staff, military commanders, Basij, committee and other officials, as well as family members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Musavi States War To Continue Until Saddam's Fall

LD051142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Musavi by unidentified correspondent, following 5 April cabinet meeting in Tehran — recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Musavi, the regional states have recently embarked on a series of activities aimed at ending the war between Iraq and Iran. One of these activities is the current session in Tunisia, where the Arab League Council members — that is, their foreign ministers — have been discussing certain points concerning the war. Would you please comment on these activities?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Needless to say, these attempts are not being made in order to end the war; rather, they are aimed at supporting and keeping Saddam in power. As far as we are concerned, Saddam is a war

criminal. The war can only end when the aggressor, the one who has committed so many crimes, is punished. Consequently, we interpret these attempts as measures to protect a person in the region who is dependent on others.

As viewed by the regional reactionaries, they are clearly trying to establish a bond between themselves and the Saddam regime. We frequently stated this cannot serve the interests of such countries. Nevertheless, it is in the nature of such countries that fear the Islamic revolution and Islam to support the Saddam regime; this has been a normal practice in the past as well.

If you stop to think you will notice that since Saddam imposed this war on us, he has received the support of both the big powers and such individuals as Husni Mubarak, King Husayn and others like them. These are the individuals who have been backing him in the region in no uncertain terms. It goes without saying that the cost of this imposed war is being funded by certain countries in the region. Regrettably, this support continues to be provided. However, what concerns us — something which we can state — is the fact that support will not alter Saddam's fate.

[Question] Why do you think that these attempts have been stepped up recently?

[Musavi] I believe that following the Karbala'-5 operations the end of Saddam is clearly more imminent. As a result, they feel more threatened once Saddam falls. Nowadays, the question of a successor to Saddam is being raised in the West, in the East, and in the press. This outlook, not a pleasant one for Saddam supporters, has led them to step up their attempts. This issue should make it clear that we must direct all our attempts in the country, mobilize our forces, exert the entire government, and channel all endeavors by our combatants to continue this war with all our might, God willing, and conduct our operations toward achieving results built on the victories achieved last year.

Musavi Addresses Seminar on Confronting Superpowers

LD031806 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 3, IRNA — A three-day seminar titled "Rahiyan-e Fath" (Marchers to Victory) started with a message from Prime Minister Husayn Musavi at Martyr Chamran University here Thursday.

The premier stressed in his message that the Islamic Republic should make international policy-makers understand that Iran does not fear their threats and ballyhoo. This, Musavi's message added, is the best policy in confronting the superpowers. "We should frighten these powers by our faith, management, weapons and influence and also make them understand that they can do nothing," said the message.

The message in remarks addressed to the Islamic Revolution's Guards said they defend the people and shoulder the main part of this mission. "We should all be aware of the importance of standing up to the bullying of international policy-makers," added the message.

Speaking at the first session of the seminar was Imam Khomeyni's representative and Friday prayers leader of Shiraz (Fars Province) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hayeri Shirazi who gave a lecture on Jihad (holy war). A group of military commanders and propagation officials in the southern operational region as well as a large group of Muslim combatants attended the seminar. Also speaking at the seminar were military commanders who lectured on the imposed war and achievements of previous operations (launched by Muslim combatants of Iran).

Khamene'i Receives IRGC Guards, Honors Martyrs

NC040630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Excerpts] On the occasion of 4 Sha'ban [lunar calendar month], the birth anniversary of the revered Abolfazl ol-'Abbas, PBUH, the noble leader of Islam, last evening 1,700 model guards from various ground forces divisions of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps [IRGC] and some model guards who had been awarded honors and had come from all over the country visited President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In ceremonies attended by the chief of staff of the Joint Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, ground forces commanders, Armed Forces and IRGC commanders, and the chief of staff of the headquarters of the IRGC, evening and night prayers were led by President Khamene'i, and the guards who had received pride of performance awards received their corps uniforms [lebas-e sepah] from the president.

The acting commander in chief of the IRGC introduced the model guards and those receiving honors and said: The Islamic combatants at the fronts and the IRGC request that 4 Sha'ban be designated the day of the martyred leaders of Islam.

Mr Khamene'i conveyed his greetings on the birth anniversary of His Holiness Abolfazl ol-'Abbas and said: I am extremely happy to receive you, as you bear the scent of the fronts. One's faith is revived at the sight of you, which revitalizes us and dispels fatigue. I congratulate all of you and our combatants on this holy and auspicious feast, and I hope you taste the sweetness of victory. The president added: The designation of the birth anniversary of the revered Abolfazl ol-'Abbas, PBUH, as the day of the great leaders of Islam is appropriate and interesting. God willing this will be so, and this year will be remembered for all time and revive the memory of martyrs for us. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, President Khamene'i referred to the imposed war, saying: Our position is firm. The malignant tumor that is the Saddam regime should be deracinated, and imperialist propaganda should not attempt to distort facts.

Khomeyni Receives Koran Recitation Competitors

LD041217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Here is a Central News Unit report: Hojjat ol-Eslam Imam Jamarani was received in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran this morning by Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed

Forces. Jamarani, representative of Imam Khomeyni and supervisor of the Pilgrimage, Endowments and Charity Organization, was accompanied by Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Seraj al-Din Musavi, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Committees; and a large group of outstanding members of both organizations who have come to Tehran to participate in Guards Day ceremonies.

Also present were 80 reciters from 28 countries who have come to Tehran to participate in the international Koran recitation and memorization competition.

In this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Imam Jamarani introduced those who were present and thanked the imam of the ummah for providing them with special support.

He recounted to the imam of the ummah and those present the unflinching decision of the combatants of Islam to carry on the fight on the fronts until the Saddamists are destroyed.

Imam Khomeyni then responded to the display of emotion of those present.

The written message of all combatants of Islam on the fronts, repeating their pledge to continue their steadfastness in delivering continuous blows to the rotten and disintegrating body of the forces of the regime ruling over Iraq, just as they have been doing up to now, and to go forward toward the battlefronts of war, was read out to the imam of the ummah.

President, Ambassador to Syria Hold Meeting

LD041612 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari reported on the country of his assignment as well as activities of Lebanese Hizballah to President 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday.

In the meeting, the president stressed on further expansion of Iran-Syria friendly relations in political, economic and cultural fields.

Envoys to Syria, Ghana Brief Prime Minister

LD051647 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hassan Akhtari met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Saturday and reported on the country of his assignment.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting here on the same day Iranian Ambassador to Accra, Ghana, Shamseddin Kharqani briefed the prime minister on expansion of the Islamic Republic relations with African countries.

Musavi in reply gave guidelines in different fields, and on how to further diplomatic ties.

Process of Normalizing Ties With France Continues

LD032101 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, April 3, IRNA — Normalization of Tehran-Paris relations, which had improved fairly rapidly after the coming to office of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in March 1986, has once again slowed.

Political observers describe the last two rounds of talks between Iranian and French experts as having "come to nothing" and say the trend would probably slow down even more in the wake of the hostile propaganda by French media against the Islamic Republic. French media's courting of the Iranian counter-revolutionary elements in Paris has been especially responsible for checking the normalization process, observers say.

Following the arrest on March 21 of six Tunisian and two French nationals on charges of involvement in a "terrorist network", the French media, under the pretext that the detainees are Muslim, waged extensive propaganda tirade against the Islamic Republic.

Jean Luc Sibieud, head of the Middle East Department of the French Foreign Ministry, told the first secretary of the Iranian Embassy in Paris, Vahid Gorji, here last Friday that reports published in the French press were not the views of the French Government.

Meanwhile, sources close to Iranian diplomats in Paris noted that despite major differences of opinion among French authorities may be heedless of their own public opinion, Tehran-Paris Relations cannot in all likelihood be normalized without due regard to Iranian public opinion.

Referring to Iran's three pre-conditions for normalization of relations, the sources say that the Paris government despite its keen interest in normalizing relations, has not yet completely met any of Iran demands. Repayment of a French loan is one of the conditions.

A one-billion-dollar-loan was made by the ex-shah of Iran to the French Atomic Energy Commissariat in 1974 and had until recently remained unpaid, although the French Government had promised it would be repaid to Iran unconditionally. The principal and the interest on the loan is now about two billion dollars of which the French Government repaid as much as 330 million dollars in December 1986 following a series of labourious and lengthly negotiations.

On the second Iranian condition which seeks to commit the French Government to curbing the activities of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), observers say that although the head of the MKO has been expelled from France, propaganda elements of this grouplet, whose acts of terrorism have been acknowledged by French officials, are still active in Paris. The grouplet even boldly applauds the criminal acts of its members.

Concerning the third Iranian condition, calling on the Paris government to abandon its support for the Iraqi regime in its imposed war on Iran, the French have so far stated that they would not change their policy vis-a-vis the Baghdad regime.

However, observers say that bilateral talks have not stopped and the process of normalizing relations, although slow, still continues. French Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Pierre Lafrance recently announced that a French economic delegation is to visit Iran in April to follow up negotiations on the two country's financial disputes.

Iranian diplomats in Paris also refer to the hardships and occasional ups and downs in bilateral talks, but they believe that Tehran-Paris talks on normalization of relations have not yet hit a deadlock.

Kuwaitis on Trial Deny Links With Other Countries

LD051151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, the imprisoned Muslim Kuwaitis, whose trial began yesterday in Kuwait, rejected charges including sabotage and links with foreign countries. At the opening of the court hearing, the arrested called out God is great, and There is no God but God. The audience answered back by calling out Death to the oppressors, and Death to the torturers, expressing their hatred of arrests and of torture of the imprisoned in Kuwait.

At the hearing, one of the accused, Hasan Hajji, in rejecting all charges said: The arrested were badly tortured by various methods including electric shocks. Showing his fingers with the nails removed, he asked the judge present at the hearing to bring to trial the people directly responsible for torturing the political prisoners of Kuwait.

Another accused, Shihab Ahmad, said that following threats, torture, and suggestions for bribes, he had been asked to state at the hearing that weapons he had received were from a foreign country. However, he vehemently refused to make any such statement, and rejected any links between the revolutionary Muslims of Kuwait with any movement abroad.

Following statements by the Muslims imprisoned in Kuwait, the hearing at the Kuwait State Security Court was proclaimed secret and Kuwaiti security forces forced the protesting audience out of the court. People gathered in front of the courthouse and began calling out slogans of Neither East nor West, only Islam; Death to the oppressors; and Muslims unite. They expressed their hatred for the arrest and torture of the revolutionary Muslims of Kuwait.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, throughout the hearing, the buildings around the courthouse were kept under security control by Kuwaiti Government anti-riot forces.

Cabinet Hears Reports on War Effort, Security

LD051216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] At a cabinet meeting this morning, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Minister Rafiqdust reported on the Fath-4 operations launched by IRGC special forces in cooperation with Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The operations led to the destruction of an intelligence-communication center at Kurak and Khalifan Garrison, as well as the fall of a number of bases and the killing of more than 1,200 Saddamist forces.

The interior minister later submitted a report about the planned activities of the State Security Council [Shura-ye Amniyat-e Keshvar] for strengthening domestic security and for implementing those plans. The report was debated by the cabinet and pertinent decisions were made.

According to the same report, Justice Minister Habibi reported on the effective outcome of the presence of State Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardebili at courts of justice.

Furthermore, at the meeting more than $13,000 and 272,000 rials donated by Iranian education practioners who live in the UAE, as well as six pieces of gold jewelry donated by Saveh [not further identified] education practioners for the war efforts, were handed over to the prime minister.

USSR-Egypt Debt Rescheduling To Assist Iraq

LD032023 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Excerpt] London, April 3, IRNA — The Soviet Union has offered favourable terms to Cairo for the repayment of its long-outstanding military debt. Under the agreement reached in Moscow last month, Egypt is reported to have been allowed 25 years, with a 6 year grace period, to repay the accumulated debt of some Dlrs 200 million and will not have to pay for the additional interest.

The arms debt was originally suspended by President al-Sadat in 1977 after he had abrogated a treaty of friendship and co-operation with Moscow.

The rescheduling arrangement is seen as a further sign of the Soviet Union's anxiety to improve relations with Arab states and opens the way for Egypt to resume credit purchases of Soviet spare parts.

The deal could also further assist Egyptian military supplies to Iraq for its war against Iran. The Baghdad regime has relied heavily on Soviet equipment since it invaded the Islamic Republic in 1980.

Moscow's offer follows closely on the heels on the agreement which Cairo finally consented to recently with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mounting levels of debt coupled with declining foreign exchange earnings exacerbated Egypt's tales of economic woe. The burden of a foreign debt rapidly approaching Dlrs 40 billion with a crippling service repayment ration of some 40 per cent led to its reluctant call to the IMF for help.

Agreement has yet to be reached on the rescheduling of Egypt's Dlrs 4.6 billion debt with America for military equipment. Cairo has not taken up Washington recent offer for short-term relief on the high interest payments. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

2 Iraqi Planes Shot Down

LD061103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Two Iraqi fighter planes that were intending to bomb Iran's oil installations in the Persian Gulf were shot down thanks to the tactical measures of the Iranian Air Force pilots and the intensive defensive fire of the forces of Islam before carrying out their missions.

According to an IRNA report, this morning several aggressor Iraqi planes intended to bomb Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf. However, thanks to the coordinated air defense operations of Iranian pilots and the regional defense units, the enemy fighter planes were deprived of any action. While our country's fighter planes engaged the two Iraqi fighter planes in combat, they [the two Iraqi planes] were shot down by accurate fire of regional defense units.

The Iraqi planes were set afire over the Persian Gulf and crashed in deep waters. There is no news on the fate of the pilots of the two Iraqi planes.

Regarding this morning's air defense operations of the combatants of Islam, the spokesman of the War Information Headquarters said: The coordination and accuracy of the brave Air Force pilots and the alert regional defense units in the incident of the aggression by the Iraqi planes was admirable, so that the enemy fighter planes were not able to carry out their sorties.

Referring to recent efforts by the Zionist regime of Iraq to step up its mischievious acts and attack Iranian ships and oil installations in the Persian Gulf, he said: At any time, in any place, the combatants of Islam are on full alert to combat enemy mischief and to defend their country. As they have shown today, they deprive the enemy of attaining his goals. He stressed: Naturally, we shall not remain silent in the face of enemy attacks. We will make the rulers of Baghdad sorry for such acts, as in the past.

Communique No 2,795

LD031711 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA — Iranian Gendarmerie Forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions in various operational regions killing or wounding 15 enemy troops and setting ablaze a boat, two munitions depots, a vehicle and some bunkers of the enemy forces, according to a military communique released here Friday.

Communique number 2795 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Naval forces controlled shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The Navy also checked Iraqi reconnaissance copters and vessels operating near Al-Bakr and Al-'Amyah oil platforms, it added.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam operational regions, the communique said, an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and some positions of theirs destroyed.

Exchange of fire raged sporadically in Hajj 'Umran and Marivan fronts on Thursday as a result of which some enemy troops were killed or injured, said the communique adding two Iraqi vehicles and some enemy bunkers were also destroyed. Iranian patrols reconnoitered enemy activities in the said fronts and returned to their bases safely after carrying out their mission, it added.

Iraqi forces sustained substantial damage in the southern fronts when Muslim combatants of Iran heavily shelled enemy positions and installations, said the communique.

Communique No 2,796

LD041523 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA — Accurate artillery fire of the Muslim combatants destroyed five Iraqi tanks in Helaleh operational region of the western fronts Friday, according to Joint Staff Communique No. 2796 released here Saturday.

The communique added that Iranian forces checked all enemy movements in western and northwestern fronts Saturday where they also destroyed several Iraqi tanks, vehicles as well as bunkers, and killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempted to approach Iranian positions in Sumar region but were forced to flee suffering some casualties. Two Iraqi loaders were also destroyed in the region.

Iranian combatants suppressed movement of Iraqi motorized columns in Kani-Sheykh, Naft-e Shah, Badra and Nahr 'Anbar operational regions. Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked in Pich-e Angizeh, Sharhani and Yebis. Iraqi tank fire on Iranian positions was also silenced in the Nahr 'Anbar area.

In southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire destroyed two Iraqi observation posts, killing a number of enemy soldiers.

Several Iraqi bunkers were destroyed and a number of Ba'thist troops killed when their positions in parts of southern and western fronts came under heavy artillery fire of the Gendarmerie forces, said the communique.

Communique No 2,797

LD051620 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi assault in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, early Saturday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on enemy troops and forcing the other attacking soldiers to flee.

Announcing the above here Sunday, the 2797th Communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that parts of Iraqi positions, one tank and one anti-aircraft gun were set ablaze elsewhere in the northwestern fronts Saturday by Iranian artillery fire. Effective blows were also dealt enemy troops by Iranian patrols.

In the western fronts, Iranian Muslim combatants opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements of theirs. Enemy engineering operations were also halted in Qasr-e Shirin.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Talaiyeh and Zayd where parts of Iraqi positions and defence lines were destroyed and enemy logistical operations disrupted. In Eynkhosh, movement of an Iraqi armoured unit was checked by Iranian tank fire.

Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and at least 10 enemy gun emplacements together with some enemy vehicles and observation posts were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iraqi engineering operations were halted and some enemy engineering equipment destroyed in Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts, Sunday, the communique concluded.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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